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Subject: FW: Fish Consumption
Date: Thursday, December 20, 2012 5:08:54 PM

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From: McBride, David (DOH)
Sent: Thursday, December 20, 2012 4:19 PM
To: McCormack, Craig (ECY)
Subject: Fish Consumption

Craig:

During my presentation and follow-up discussions at the Environmental Law Education Center's Advanced Conference on Reducing Toxics in Fish Sediment & Water (June 26, 2012, held at Seattle's Washington Convention Center) I provided Washington State Department of Health's position on fish consumption estimates for Washington State's fish consuming populations. I noted that:

- Washington State Department of Health endorses Oregon State's Department of Environmental Quality 175 grams/day fish consumption estimate to establish surface water quality criteria protective of human health;
- Consistent with the Human Health Focus Group Report-Oregon Fish and Shellfish Consumption Rate Project-June 2008 and Oregon State's Department of Environmental Quality use of 175 grams / day, the Washington State Department of Health position is that the 1994 Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Consumption Survey is a technically sound and scientifically defensible fish dietary survey;
- The 175 grams / day fish consumption estimate (about 23 8-oz fish meals per month) is based on approximately the 95th percentile of the distribution from the 1994 Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Consumption Survey of Columbia River basin tribes;
- Washington State Department of Health's position is that 175 grams / day is the **minimum** fish consumption estimate for Washington State's fish consuming populations because the 175 grams /day estimate from the 1994 Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Consumption Survey does not fully account for the range of shellfish harvested and consumed by Washington State fish consuming populations; and
- Based on the credible and scientifically defensible fish dietary surveys currently available from Washington State, the Washington State Department of Health's position is that the fish consumption estimate (default rate or range), used for regulatory purposes protective of Washington State's fish consuming populations, is **above** (greater than) 175 grams / day and should include salmon in any of the overall fish consumption estimates.

Thanks for the opportunity for WA State Department of Health to share our position regarding a fish consumption estimate(s) in recognition of and protective of Washington State's fish consuming populations.

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